

# social health news



AMERICAN SOCIAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

Vol. 36, No. 8

OCTOBER, 1961

## TEENAGE VD CLINIC OPENED IN PHILADELPHIA; PROGRAM TO HAVE FULL-TIME INTERVIEWER

A special venereal disease clinic for teenagers in process of organization and development since 1957 has been set up by the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Health Department, according to a recent announcement by Philadelphia's Health Commissioner, Eugene A. Gillis, M.D.

John W. Lentz, M.D., Chief of the Philadelphia Health Department's VD Section, will be responsible for the conduct of the special program. Dr. Gillis said that the city's health department had been concerned for several years with the conventional venereal disease program for teenagers, which was primarily aimed at treating the disease and at casefinding rather than directed towards treatment of the whole patient.

### To Interview Teenagers

The new program is designed to deepen insights into behavior patterns of teenagers who acquire a venereal disease, particularly those teenagers who are infected repeatedly. A full-time medical social worker has been assigned to the new teenage clinic to conduct interviews "in depth" with teenagers thirteen to seventeen years of age.

During the formulation of the new program, Philadelphia health officials met with Celia S. Deschin, Ph.D., Director of ASHA's behavioral study of 600 New York City teenagers, attending NYC's Social Hygiene Clinics because they had or thought they had contracted a venereal disease. (The final report of ASHA's study, entitled **Teen-Agers and Venereal Disease**, was released in June of this year.) Dr. Gillis said that Dr. Lentz and his staff "gained a valuable insight into the basic problems involved" in developing a special venereal disease clinic for teenagers from the conference with Dr. Deschin.

Additional teenage clinics will be established in Philadelphia if the first one proves successful.

ASHA's NYC Teenage VD Study, which commenced in 1958, was conducted for the U. S. Public Health Service in cooperation with the New York City Health Department.

## Dr. N. J. Fiumara Speaker At Dayton VD Institute

Nicholas J. Fiumara, M.D., Director of the Division of Communicable Diseases of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, was the keynote speaker at a one-day Teachers' VD Institute, held in Dayton, Ohio, September 25th.

The Institute was sponsored by the Social Health Association of Dayton, Montgomery and Greene Counties.

Dr. Fiumara's speech preceded a buffet supper and a series of panels on various phases of the VD problem. Panel subjects included: What Teachers Should Know About VD; The Control of VD in Private Practice; Social Trends Among the Teens; and What the Public School is Doing to Assist Teachers in VD Education.

## SWEET POTATO VINE Title of New Play; Half-Hour Drama Concerns Unmarried Mother

Who is the unmarried mother? What is her story? Where can she turn?

These questions, often answered with clichés and ignorance, are given unbiased treatment in a half-hour play called **SWEET POTATO VINE**, the newest addition to the roster of half-hour plays on social problems published by Plays for Living, a Division of Family Service Association of America in New York City.

Written by Barbara Davidson and commissioned by the Spence Chapin Adoption Service of New York City, **SWEET POTATO VINE** dramatizes

## College Holds First Family Life Workshop

Under the direction of Dr. E. Dorothy Brownfield, Central Missouri State College, Warrensburg, Missouri, held its first family living workshop this summer from July 13 to August 11.

The workshop, an outgrowth of ASHA's Middle States Family Life Education Project, was considered the initial step in incorporating a family life workshop as an annual part of Central Missouri State College's Summer curriculum. The workshop was developed with the cooperation of Dr. Warren Lovinger, who is President of the College and also the Projects Coordinator for the Middle States Project.

**Objectives of the workshop were to assist elementary and secondary teachers to develop a broader background and understanding of family living and to assist them in preparing material for use in their classrooms.** Twenty-five teachers, predominantly from elementary schools, enrolled in the workshop, which offered two hours' graduate credit.

Elizabeth S. Force, ASHA's Associate Director of Education, participated in the workshop, presenting material on techniques of teaching family living and use of community resources.

the story of an unwed mother, her loneliness and fears, her inability to cope with herself and society at a time when planning and counseling are vital to helping her avoid further tragic mistakes.

A "look see" copy of **SWEET POTATO VINE** with discussion guide for leaders is available from Plays for Living (215 Park Avenue South, New York 3, N. Y.) for \$2.00. Within a 50-mile radius of New York City, performances of the four-character drama by Broadway actors can also be booked through Plays for Living.

# Rocky Mountain Project Lauded As Program Begins Third Year

"One of the most imaginative and widespread family life education projects in the United States . . ." is the description applied to the Rocky Mountain Project by Norman W. Paget, executive director of the San Bernardino (Calif.) Family Service Association, in a new pamphlet entitled "Family Life Education Program Profiles." Mr. Paget defines family life education as "group education activities directed toward the improvement of family life."

Characterized by Dr. Edgar C. Cumings, director of ASHA's Division of Education, as "the most ambitious of the five ASHA projects in family life education," the Rocky Mountain Project begins its third year of operation this fall with both

new and continuing pilot projects in Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico and

This is the first of two articles on the recent activities and current plans of the joint NCPT-ASHA Rocky Mountain Project in Family Life Education which began in September, 1959. The article in this issue reviews Project activities and plans in the states of Arizona and Nevada. The second article, to appear in the November issue of the NEWS, will review Project activities and plans in New Mexico and Utah and sum up the accomplishments of the first two years of these activities in all four states.

Utah. The Project is jointly sponsored and financed by the National Congress of Parents and Teachers and the American Social Health Association. The Project has received widespread attention and was awarded a prominent place on the program of the recent Annual Conference of the National Council on Family Relations in Salt Lake City.

Under the chairmanship of Dr. Calvin H. Reed, associate professor of education at the University of Nevada, the Project's Advisory Committee and the various state committees have developed a set of pilot programs designed to fit the needs of the individual communities in the four states.

## ARIZONA

Arizona conducted a four-month series of television programs near the end of 1960 as part of a mass media project, and is continuing TV experiments this fall. These include using a series of photographic slides, with commentary, to be broadcast over two or three Tucson stations. Arrangements have also been completed for a complete TV course in family living to be given over KUAT-TV, the educational station of the University of Arizona. This latter course includes plans for the establishment of PTA study groups which will view and then discuss the programs.

Another phase of the Arizona program is the community organization project in Prescott, Arizona. Described by Dr. Cumings as one of the most interesting activities of the entire Project, this has developed into a plan to survey a cross section of the population of Prescott and recommend appropriate action for necessary new services to families.

The project in Prescott began with a kick-off meeting in August of 1960 which was attended by some 900 citizens out of a total population of 15,000. The next major effort culminated in a four-day Community Institute on Family Living held last spring. This institute was attended by 1,139 persons, including 520 young people from the local schools.

According to Dr. Cumings, the most important decision arrived at in the Prescott project was that of the local committee to undertake with the help of ASHA and the PTA the survey mentioned earlier. This survey will get underway this fall and will, it is hoped by project leaders, result in a thorough-going community "operation bootstrap" to provide further services and aids.

(Continued on page 4)

## BRUSH OFF THE COBWEBS

Every so often a hue and cry is raised to legalize prostitution. Only recently, a Philadelphia Grand Jury suggested such an archaicism. Much of the nation's press gave this story front-page space.

Shortly thereafter, a group of well-intentioned ladies in Los Angeles also raised their voices in favor of legalizing prostitution. They, too, attracted considerable national attention.

Occasional spurts of flagrant prostitution activities almost routinely result in recommendations that the clock be turned back several decades and that an experiment, long since made and proven fruitless, be tried again. What the uninformed simply do not know is that houses of prostitution, legal or tolerated, are incentives to traffic in persons (the old "white-slave trade") both internationally and right here in the United States.

Proponents of prostitution have forgotten, or never knew, that prostitution is the most vicious form of exploitation of women, girls and their customers; that it is carried on strictly for profit; and that the lion's share of the money involved fills the pockets of third party interests.

No legal code thus far devised has removed the criminal elements from the business of prostitution. No system of health supervision has been devised to provide sure-fire protection against venereal disease—inescapably liable to result from prostitutional activities.

The prostitution underworld is eternally on the lookout for "angles." If their trade is legalized, they can be

depended upon to develop ways and means of circumventing legal measures and will inevitably return prostitution to the status of a racket. All unwittingly, the uninformed are the best special pleaders for the underworld.

Women and girls, unfortunately, are the "stock in trade" of prostitution interests. The underworld must constantly seek new recruits or, worse yet, coerce weak-willed victims by threats and moral blackmail.

In the state of Nevada, right now, houses of prostitution are legal in a substantial number of small communities. Happily, public opinion in many parts of Nevada is changing. The public has begun to recognize that legal prostitution is not the answer; that establishments where prostitution exists are gathering places for criminal elements; that sexual perversion is openly fostered in most, if not all, brothels; that the inmates are a definite menace to public health.

If the Philadelphia Grand Jury and the well-intentioned ladies in Los Angeles would devote their energies to insisting on good law enforcement rather than legalized prostitution, they would be serving the nation and the world in a positive way, protecting the health and moral welfare of thousands of prostitution's victims. Fuzzy-minded recommendations, based on little thought and less knowledge, were a major problem twenty or thirty years ago. It is hard to believe that an informed society can still produce such recommendations as late as 1961.—Paul Kinsie.

# Inventory Sale of Social Health Pamphlets

## Includes Seventeen Titles Written Especially For . . .

### Elementary and Secondary School Teachers

**E-8 Family Life Education Resource Guide**—\$.75 per copy  
A curriculum guide for grades 1 through 12. Prepared by a selected group of teachers and specialists to aid instructors in Schools of Education and In-Service Training Programs.

**E-9 through E-13 Family Life Education Series**—\$.15 per single copy; \$.50 per set of five

**E-9 To Those Who Teach—An Invitation and a Challenge**  
Gives detailed information on the tasks and goals of ASHA's Middle States Family Life Education Project. This booklet is included in the series without charge.

**E-10 The Social Scientist's Stake in Teaching Marriage and Family Life Education**  
Illustrates the importance of family life education to the social scientist. Surveys the opportunities and challenges that face the teacher of social studies.

**E-11 Family Life Education in the Communications Field**  
Suggests ways in which the teacher of communications may weave the principals of family life education into his courses. A bibliography is included.

**E-12 Family Life Education Contributes to the Preparation of Teachers**  
Lists many ways in which

family life education can lead to increased teaching skills and greater sensitivity to pupils' problems if included in the content of teacher preparation courses.

**E-13 Family Life Education—An Opportunity for Psychological Instruction**

Gives details of a research and demonstration program at the University of Nebraska. Gives examples of ways in which the principles of marriage and family living can be used in courses in psychology.

### Parents

**A-817 Let's Tell the Whole Story About Sex**—\$.15 per copy  
Candidly interprets several aspects of sex education in a spiritually oriented, natural, wholesome way. Written by a prominent Catholic layman, this pamphlet is suitable for parents of all faiths.

**A-876 The Gift of Life**—\$.20 per copy  
Explains the biological facts of life in illustrated form.

**A-853 through A-859 The Goldberg Series**—\$.10 per single copy; \$.65 per set of seven

A set of seven pamphlets answering questions on sex and family life education from Childhood to Adulthood. The set includes YOUR CHILD'S QUESTIONS—HOW TO ANSWER THEM . . . PARENTS, TELL YOUR CHILDREN . . . KNOW YOUR DAUGHTER . . . KNOW YOUR SON . . . BOYS WANT TO KNOW . . . GIRLS WANT TO KNOW . . . PREPARING FOR YOUR MARRIAGE.

**A-912 That Dear Octopus—The Family**—\$.20 per copy  
Family relationships described with the light touch. Discusses the need for understanding both affinity and hostility in family relationships.

**A-908 Family Life Education—Are We Passing the Buck?**  
Free  
Explains briefly why the community, church, home and school should unite in the physical, social and emotional development of young people.

PLEASE SEND PUBLICATIONS AS INDICATED TO:

NAME (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZONE \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

### ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS

E-8\_\_\_\_ E-9\_\_\_\_ E-10\_\_\_\_ E-11\_\_\_\_ E-12\_\_\_\_ E-13\_\_\_\_

### GOLDBERG SERIES

A-853\_\_\_\_ A-854\_\_\_\_ A-855\_\_\_\_ A-856\_\_\_\_ A-857\_\_\_\_  
A-858\_\_\_\_ A-859\_\_\_\_

### PARENTS

A-817\_\_\_\_ A-876\_\_\_\_ A-912\_\_\_\_ A-908\_\_\_\_

PLEASE NOTE: These sale prices are offered through December 31, 1961, and apply only on orders received on the accompanying order form.

Social Health NEWS  
published by  
THE AMERICAN SOCIAL HEALTH  
ASSOCIATION  
1790 Broadway, New York 19, N. Y.  
Frank H. Heller - - - President  
Conrad Van Hynning - Executive Director  
Esther E. Sweeney - - - Editor  
COPYRIGHT 1961 BY AMERICAN SOCIAL HEALTH  
ASSOCIATION, 1790 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, N. Y.



OCTOBER, 1961

Mr. Eugene B. Power  
University Microfilms  
315 N. First Street  
Ann Arbor, Michigan

AMERICAN SOCIAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

## Social Health News

### ASHA-NCPT ROCKY MT. PROJECT IN FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION LAUDED

(Continued from page 2)

The institute and other activities in Prescott have already resulted in the addition of new community services including the establishment of a local chapter of Alcoholics Anonymous, the training of local clergymen for family and marital counseling purposes, the establishment of group counseling sessions, and arrangements for part-time psychiatric help for disturbed cases. Libraries of resource materials in family life education have been set up in Prescott and also in Cottonwood. Several evening courses have been given in both communities, and guidance has been provided for individual families.

#### NEVADA

The project in Nevada has a somewhat different focus. The major effort has been to stimulate family life education and the development of stronger local PTA groups through a series of one- and two-day institutes.

These institutes, which have been taken, "road show" style, to the smaller communities of the state, have featured prominent speakers and discussion leaders and have attempted to point up what individual communities themselves can do. Thus far there have been seven of these institutes, with more to follow.

In addition, the project in Nevada has led to the establishment of a Nevada Council on Family Relations as a permanent body in this field; to several leadership-training workshops; and to a greater emphasis on family life education by state and local PTA organizations.

A venture of considerable importance, according to Dr. Cumings, is the pilot project underway at the Greenbrae Elementary School in Sparks, Nevada. Here the teachers and administrators of the school, as well as the pupils and their parents,

are being helped to give greater attention to ways and means of creating a better emotional climate in the school and of developing more interest in family living matters.

#### THE PROJECT'S FUTURE

Members of the Rocky Mountain Project Advisory Committee have expressed the hope that Project activities will be officially continued and financially supported in the four states until the end of 1964. It is the belief of Project leaders that even after the formal dissolution of the Project, many of the programs initiated with Project funds and support will be carried on by the communities themselves on a community-supported basis. Project programs have therefore included plans for enlisting community leadership and/or training community leaders in the field of family life education in towns where none existed before.

#### Why I Should Be a Member of the American Social Health Association

- Because membership means that I believe in ASHA's aims and goals and want to lend my moral support to their achievement.
- Because I can keep posted on social health activities everywhere through the **Social Health News** (10 issues a year); through special reports; and the single copies of all ASHA pamphlets, which I can receive free upon request.

#### Application for Individual or Organization Membership

Attached is my/our check for \$5.00 to cover membership.

NAME\_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS\_\_\_\_\_

CITY\_\_\_\_\_STATE\_\_\_\_\_

MEMBERSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS ARE DEDUCTIBLE FOR INCOME TAX PURPOSES

